



Guide to the Becker Family papers

DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY

Title:

Becker Family papers

Date:

1939-1941

Collection Number:

1989-1002

Creator:

Martin Becker

Extent:

1 folder

Languages:

Polish, German, English

Repository:

Holocaust Center of Northern California
121 Steuart Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

Abstract:

This collection, comprised of postcards and letters, documents the experiences of a family separated during the Nazi occupation of Poland. Postcards and letters from family members in Warsaw and Krosniewice, Poland, describe deteriorating conditions in the Jewish ghettos and request assistance in emigration.

INFORMATION FOR RESEARCHERS

Access:

There are no restrictions on access to this collection

Preferred citation:

[Item] [date], Becker Family papers. 1939-1941, Holocaust Center of Northern California, San Francisco, California

Acquisition information:

This collection was donated to the Holocaust Center of Northern California by Martin Becker, and was dedicated by him to the memory of Zelda Becker, his mother.

Processing history:

Processed by Judith Janec, January 2007

History:

Before the invasion and occupation of Poland by Nazi Germany, the Becker family lived in Krosniewice, Poland. During the war years, Zelda Becker, wife of Abraham Becker and mother of Tadek, Lolek and Martin Becker, was able to leave occupied Poland, and lived with relatives in Laurelton, New Jersey. Martin Becker was a student at Carelton College, Minnesota during this time. Family members Abraham, Tadek and Lolek remained behind and were trapped in Nazi-occupied Poland. Their home was confiscated by authorities; they were forced to move to the Warsaw Ghetto. According to a note included in the file by Martin Becker, donor of the collection, all three perished at Treblinka death camp.

Collection Scope and Content summary:

This collection is comprised of correspondence – mostly postcards, but some letters and a telegram – sent primarily from members of the Becker family still living in Europe to other family members living in the United States and Holland during the period from November 1939 until late 1941. The postcards and letters document the desperate situation of those left in Poland. They illustrate the difficulties of escape and the great impediments families faced in trying to rescue family members. Several postcards contain heart-breaking pleas for assistance in obtaining transit visas and papers, and awareness of an uncertain future.

Also included are postal return receipts, and receipts for food packages sent to family members in Warsaw, Krosniewice and Kutno, Poland.

Correspondence is in Polish, German and English. Translations are available for some of the documents.

Collection arrangement:

Collection is arranged by type of material (postcards, letters, receipts), then by recipient, then chronologically.

Indexing terms:

Subjects:

Becker, Abraham – correspondence
Becker, Tadek – correspondence
Becker, Lolek – correspondence
Jewish families – Poland
Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945) – Poland – Lodz
Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945) – Poland – Warsaw
Jews – Persecutions – Lodz
Jews – Persecutions – Warsaw
World War, 1939-1945 – Lodz
World War, 1939-1945 – Warsaw
World War, 1939-1945 – Civilian relief – Poland
Lodz (Poland)
Warsaw (Poland)

Genres and Formats of Materials:

Correspondence – Poland
Family papers – Poland
Postcards – Poland
Receipts – Poland

COLLECTION CONTENTS

Postcards to Zelda Becker

Zelda Becker postcard, Laurelton, NY from Abraham Beker, Warsaw, Poland.
1941 January 12

Zelda Becker postcard, Laurelton, NY from Tadek Beker, Warsaw Poland.
1941 February 2

Zelda Becker postcard, Laurelton, NY from Frajdla Harbszlazk, Warsaw, Poland.
1941 February 3

Zelda Becker postcard, Laurelton, NY from J. Dancygier, Krosniewice, Poland.
1941 March 3

Zelda Becker postcard, Laurelton, NY from Abraham Becker, Warsaw, Poland.
1941 March 16

Zelda Becker postcard, Laurelton, NY from J. Dancyger, Krosniewice.
1941 April 23

Zelda Becker postcard, Laurelton, NY from Tadek Beker, Warsaw, Poland.
1941 May 21

Zelda Becker postcard, Laurelton, NY from Tadek Beker, Warsaw, Poland.
1941 May 22

Zelda Becker postcard, Laurelton, NY from Frajdla Harbszlazk, Warsaw, Poland.
1941 May 31

Zelda Becker postcard, Laurelton, NY from D. Beker, Warsaw, Poland.
1941 June 6

Zelda Becker postcard, Laurelton, NY from Dancyger, Krosniewice, Poland.
1941 [July] 24

Zelda Becker postcard, Laurelton, NY from Beker, Warsaw, Poland.
1941 7 September

Zelda Becker postcard, Laurelton, NY from Beker, Warsaw, Poland.
1941 September 10

Zelda Becker postcard, Laurelton, NY from Beker, Warsaw, Poland.
1941 September 16

Zelda Becker postcard, from J. Dancyger, Krosniewice, Poland.
Postal cancellation 1941 October 7

Zelda Becker postcard, Laurelton, NY from Z. Kaufman, Warsaw, Poland.
1941 October 18

Postcards to Martin Becker

Martin Becker postcard, Northfield, Minnesota from Abraham Beker, Warsaw, Poland.
1940 January 18

Martin Becker postcard, Northfield, Minnesota from Abraham Becker, Warsaw, Poland.
1940 February 28

Martin Becker postcard, Northfield, Minnesota from Abraham Becker, Warsaw, Poland.
1940 [?] February 21

Martin Becker postcard, Paterson, NJ from Tadek Beker, Warsaw, Poland.
1941 August 12

Other postcards

M. Rajchcaja postcard, Amsterdam, Holland from Abraham Becker, Warsaw, Poland.
1940 February 28

Kaufman's Bakery postcard, Buffalo, NY from Lodz Ghetto.
1940 September 22

Letters

Zelda Beker letter, London, England from A.B. Neumann, Budapest, Hungary.
1939 November 29

Zelda Beker letter, [no address] from Tadek Beker, Warsaw.
1940 April 16

Zelda Beker letter, [no address] from Tadek Beker, Warsaw.
1940 April 16

Letter from Tadek Beker, Warsaw [reverse of letter by different author, Abraham Beker?].
1940 July

Letter from Glowno.
1940 September 22

S. Kaufman letter, Laurelton, NY from L. Kaufman, Warsaw, Poland.
1941 January 8

Letter from Krosniewiece [addressee and two different authors unknown].
1941 March 10

Letter [addresse and author unknown, location unknown].
1941 July 10

Telegram

Zelda Beker telegram, London, England from Neumann.
1940 March 13

Receipts

Zelda Beker Foreign Food Parcel Service receipts, Laurelton, NY to Abraham Beker,
Warsaw, Poland and Jozef Dancygier, Krosniewice, Poland.
1940 November 15

Foreign Food Parcel Service receipt – send Mrs. S.D. Blutter, Springfield Gardens, NY to
Sztojme Grinbaum, Kutno, Poland.
1940 November 15

Return Receipt from US Postal Service for registered letter.
1940 October 15

Return Receipt from US Postal Service for registered letter.
1941 January 7